

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled or broader claims in a continuation application. Claims 18-28 are sought to be added. Claims 18-28 are pending in the application, with 18 being the sole independent claim.

No new matter has been entered by any amendments shown above.

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to the claims 15 and 17 for minor typographical errors. Based on the cancelling of these claims for other reasons, Applicants believe these objections to be moot, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-7, 10, and 16 were rejected: under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,861,997 to Takahashi ("Takahashi"). Claims 8, 9, 11-15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi. Applicants traverse these rejections.

Although the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have cancelled claim 1-17 in order to expedite prosecution.

New Claims 18-28

New claim 18 recites at least a system having a first lens group consisting of three lenses and a third lens groups consisting of a single lens. Takahashi's first lens

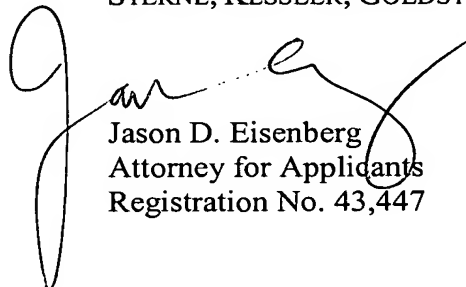
group (G1) is much larger than three lenses, where it has at least 12 lenses in total. Also, Takahashi's third lens group (G3) is much larger than a single lens, where it has at least 13 lenses in total. The reduction in lenses, as recited in claim 18, lowers a cost of the system by utilizing less CaF_2 , as discussed in the instant specification, for example. Accordingly, because Takahashi neither teaches nor suggests at least these features of claim 18, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find the claim allowable over Takahashi. Also, based at least on their dependency to claim 18, claims 19-29 should also be found allowable over Takahashi.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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